

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): System comprising:

at least one of a data carrier, valuable document and pack, and

a coating which has a coloration or a colour effect,

wherein the coating comprises:

a first full-area or partial metal layer having a ~~first~~ coloration or colour effect,

a surface relief structure including a diffraction grating and/or a hologram disposed on this metal layer, and

a second full-area or partial metal layer disposed on this surface relief structure, ~~wherein the second full-area or partial metal layer has a second coloration or a colour effect which is different from the first coloration or colour effect.~~

2. (Currently amended): Security element for application to and/or for at least partial embedding in data carriers, valuable documents and/or packs, comprising:

a substrate, and

a coating which has a coloration or a colour effect,

wherein the coating comprises:

a first full-area or partial metal layer having a ~~first~~ coloration or colour effect,

a surface relief structure including a diffraction grating and/or a hologram disposed on this metal layer, and

a second full-area or partial metal layer disposed on this surface relief structure, ~~wherein the second full area or partial metal layer has a second coloration or colour effect which is different from the first coloration or colour effect.~~

3. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the coating is applied by means of a PVD or CVD process.

4. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the coating consists of metals, their compounds or their alloys.

5. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the coating comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Cu, Fe, Ag, Au, Cr, Ni, Zn, Cd, Bi, TiO₂, Cr oxides, ZnS, ITO, Bi oxide, ATO, FTO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, Zn chromate, Fe oxides, CuO, Cu-Al alloys, Cu-Zn alloys, iron alloys, steel, colour pigments, azurite and malachite.

6. (Currently amended): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the security element ~~has at least one of a further functional layer and a decorative layer~~ a further layer containing at least one of visible dyes or pigments, luminescent dyes, dyes or pigments

which fluoresce or phosphoresce in the visible, in the UV range or in the IR range, liquid crystals, pearl luster, bronzes, multilayer colour-change pigments, and heat-sensitive colours or pigments.

7. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 6, characterized in that the security element additionally has at least one of an electrically conductive layer, a layer with magnetic properties, a layer with structures active in diffraction and a layer with positive or negative printing.

8. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the security element is provided with a protective varnish layer on one or both sides.

9. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 8, characterized in that the protective varnish layer is pigmented.

10. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the security element is laminated to at least one carrier substrate.

11. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 10, characterized in that the security element is laminated to the at least one carrier substrate using a lamination adhesive which is pigmented.

12. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 2, characterized in that the security element is provided on one or both sides with a hot-melt or cold-seal adhesive or a self-adhesive coating.

13. (Previously presented): Security element according to Claim 12, characterized in that the hot-melt or cold-seal adhesive or the self-adhesive coating is pigmented.

14. (Currently amended): Thin sheet material, characterized in that it is provided with a coating having a coloration or a colour effect,

wherein the coating comprises:

a first full-area or partial metal layer having a ~~first~~ coloration or colour effect,

a surface relief structure including a diffraction grating and/or a hologram disposed on this metal layer, and

a second full-area or partial metal layer disposed on this surface relief structure, ~~wherein the second full-area or partial metal layer has a second coloration or a colour effect which is different from the first coloration or colour effect.~~

15. (Original): Thin sheet material according to Claim 14, characterized in that the coating is applied by means of a PVD or CVD process.

16. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 14, characterized in that the coating consists of metals, their compounds or their alloys.

17. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 16, characterized in that the coating comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Cu, Fe, Ag, Au, Cr, Ni, Zn, Cd, Bi, TiO₂, Cr oxides, ZnS, ITO, Bi oxide, ATO, FTO, ZnO, Al₂O₃, Zn chromate, Fe oxides, CuO, Cu-Al alloys, Cu-Zn alloys, iron alloys, steel, colour pigments, azurite and malachite.

18. (Currently amended): Thin sheet material according to Claim 14, characterized in that the thin sheet material has ~~at least one of a further functional layer and a decorative layer~~ a further layer containing at least one of visible dyes or pigments, luminescent dyes, dyes or pigments which fluoresce or phosphoresce in the visible, in the UV range or in the IR range, liquid crystals, pearl luster, bronzes, multilayer colour-change pigments, and heat-sensitive colours or pigments.

19. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 18, characterized in that the thin sheet material additionally has at least one of an electrically conductive layer, a layer with magnetic properties, a layer with structures active in diffraction and a layer with positive or negative printing.

20. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 14, characterized in that the thin sheet material is provided with a protective varnish layer on one or both sides.

21. (Original): Thin sheet material according to Claims 20, characterized in that the protective varnish layer is pigmented.

22. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 14, characterized in that the thin sheet material is laminated to at least one carrier substrate.

23. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 22, characterized in that the security element is laminated to the at least one carrier substrate using a lamination adhesive which is pigmented.

24. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 14, characterized in that the thin sheet material is provided on one or both sides with a hot-melt or cold-seal adhesive or a self-adhesive coating.

25. (Previously presented): Thin sheet material according to Claim 24, characterized in that the hot-melt or cold-seal adhesive or the self-adhesive coating is pigmented.

26. (Previously presented): Valuable documents, packs and the like which have a security element according to Claim 2.

27. (Previously presented): Data carrier comprising the security element according to Claim 2.

28. (Previously presented): Data carrier comprising the thin sheet material according to Claim 14.

29. (Previously presented): System according to Claim 1, which is a system for colour identification of at least one of a valuable document, a product and a pack.

30. (Previously presented): System according to Claim 1, which is a valuable document or pack.

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (New): Thin sheet material according to Claim 18, characterized in that the further layer contains at least one of visible dyes and visible pigments.